

### **REMARKS**

Claims 1-18 are pending in the above-identified application. Claims 1-18 were rejected. this Amendment, no claims were amended or cancelled. Accordingly, claims 1-18 remain at issue.

#### **I. 35 U.S.C. § 102 Anticipation Rejection of Claims**

Claims 1, 2, 4-6, 8-10, 13-14 and 17-18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Ji et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,796,538). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Claim 1 is directed to a method for sending information over a network wherein information is dispersed and stored in a plurality of pieces of electronic information equipment connected to the network and wherein the information stored in a dispersed state is managed by one of the pieces of electronic information equipment connected to the network. Each of the pieces of electronic information equipment comprises a means for forming a communication channel with another piece of electronic information equipment instructed by output instructions received thereby as an interface to the network. In the event of inputting the information stored in a dispersed state to one of the pieces of electronic information equipment on the network as a time-wise continuous piece of information, the electronic information equipment managing the information stored in a dispersed state gives, based on managing information thereof, output instructions to each of the pieces of electronic information equipment to output the information dispersed and stored in each of the pieces of electronic information equipment to an output destination electronic information equipment. Upon detection of completion of information

output from one of the pieces of electronic information equipment, the electronic information equipment managing the information stored in a dispersed state gives output instructions to the electronic information equipment storing subsequent information to output the information stored therein to the output destination electronic information equipment. Each of said pieces of electronic information equipment storing the information in a dispersed state output information to the network with the output destination of the information as the output destination electronic information equipment, based on the output instructions.

Ji et al. is directed to a multiple deck VCR system capable of performing a combination and a series of playback operations. See col. 1, lines 11-16. In Ji et al. each VCR unit has a control means to drive each VCR unit in accordance with a selected operation mode. See col. 1, lines 60-62. Specifically, the VCR units 100, 200, and 300 comprise decks designated as reference numerals 11, 21, and 31 and controllers designated as reference numerals 10, 20, and 30 for controlling the operation of the decks 11, 21, and 31, respectively. See col. 3, lines 7-11. Ji et al. does not disclose or suggest a network wherein upon detection of completion of information output from one of the pieces of electronic information equipment, the electronic information equipment managing the information stored in a dispersed state gives output instructions to the electronic information equipment storing subsequent information to output the information stored therein to the output destination electronic information equipment, as required by claim 1. Accordingly, claim 1 and claims 2 and 4, which depend from claim 1, are allowable over Ji et al. For similar reasons claim 5, 6, 8 and 17 are allowable over Ji et al.

Claim 9 is directed to a method for sending information over a network, wherein a plurality of pieces of electronic information equipment are connected to a network. A

communication channel is formed via the network between two pieces of electronic information equipment of the plurality of pieces of electronic information equipment and the output information of one piece of electronic information equipment of the two pieces of electronic information equipment being input to the other piece of electronic information equipment thereby performing information processing at the other piece of electronic information equipment. Wherein a piece of electronic information equipment connected to said network gives instructions to said other piece of electronic information equipment of said two pieces of electronic information equipment to change the output destination of said output information to a piece of electronic information equipment other than said other piece of electronic information equipment, and also instructs said other piece of electronic information equipment to start processing information input thereto.

Ji et al. provides that when the end sensor 64 determines the completion of the playback operation of the first VCR deck 11, it feeds a signal RE11 to the sequential logic circuit 40. Subsequently, the sequential logic circuit 40 provides a signal RS20 to the controller 20 in the second VCR unit 200 so that the second VCR deck 21 can perform the playback operation. If the cassette loading sensor 72 determines that the second VCR deck 21 does not have any cassette tape loaded therein, it should be determined whether the third VCR unit 300 is ready to operate. See col. 6, line 63 - col. 7, line 5.

Ji et al. does not disclose or suggest a piece of electronic information equipment connected to the network giving instructions to the other piece of electronic information equipment of the two pieces of electronic information equipment to change the output destination of the output information to a piece of electronic information equipment other than

the other piece of electronic information equipment, and also instructing the other piece of electronic information equipment to start processing information input thereto, as required by claim 9. Accordingly, claim 9 and claims 10, 13, and 14, which depend from claim 9, are allowable over Ji et al.

Claim 18 is directed to electronic information equipment, comprising an interface means for connecting to a network, recording means for recording information signals transmitted from information output equipment via said network in a recording medium and means for, in the event of judging that the available capacity of said recording medium is insufficient while recording with said recording means, requesting output of said information signals to other electronic information equipment having functions for recording information signals, and also requesting said other electronic information equipment to execute recording.

In Ji et al., the series playback sequence is designated in a predetermined order, e.g., in the order of the first VCR unit 100, the second VCR unit 200 and the third VCR unit 300. See col. 5, line 66 - col. 6, line 1. When the cassette loading sensor detects the tape cassette loaded in the VCR deck, it generates a cassette detection signal CST indicative of the presence of the tape cassette. Each of the end sensors 64, 74 and 84 functions to sense the completion of the playback operation of each of the VCR decks 11, 21 and 31. When the end sensor senses the end run of a tape, it generates a playback completion signal RE representing the completion of the playback operation of the VCR deck. See col. 5, lines 41-49. Therefore, while a part of the series playback sequence can be skipped in case, e.g., when no tape cassette is loaded in one of the VCR units, this is not done until the end sensor is triggered. See col. 6, lines 2-4.

Ji et al. does not disclose or suggest a means for, in the event of judging that the available capacity of the recording medium is insufficient while recording with the recording means, requesting output of the information signals to other electronic information equipment having functions for recording information signals, and also requesting the other electronic information equipment to execute recording, as required by claim 18. Accordingly, claim 18 is allowable over Ji et al.

As discussed above, claims 1, 2, 4-6, 8-10, 13-14 and 17-18 are allowable over Ji et al. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection.

## **II. 35 U.S.C. § 103 Obviousness Rejection of Claims**

Claims 3, 7, 11-12, 15-16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ji et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,796,538). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

As discussed above, Ji et al. does not disclose or suggest a network wherein upon detection of completion of information output from one of the pieces of electronic information equipment, the electronic information equipment managing the information stored in a dispersed state gives output instructions to the electronic information equipment storing subsequent information to output the information stored therein to the output destination electronic information equipment, as required by claims 1, 5. Ji et al. further does not disclose or suggest a piece of electronic information equipment connected to the network giving instructions to the other piece of electronic information equipment of the two pieces of electronic information equipment to change the output destination of the output information to a piece of electronic information equipment other than the other piece of electronic information equipment, and also


instructing the other piece of electronic information equipment to start processing information input thereto, as required by claim 9. Therefore, it would not be obvious to modify Ji et al. to derive claims 3, 7, 11-12, 15-16 that depend from claims 1, 5 and 9. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of this rejection.

**III. Conclusion**

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicants submit that all claims are clearly allowable over the cited prior art, and respectfully requests early and favorable notification to that effect.

Respectfully submitted,

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By:   
Marina N. Saito  
Registration No. 42,121  
SONNENSCHNEIDER NATH & ROSENTHAL LLP  
P.O. Box 061080  
Wacker Drive Station, Sears Tower  
Chicago, Illinois 60606-1080  
(312) 876-8000